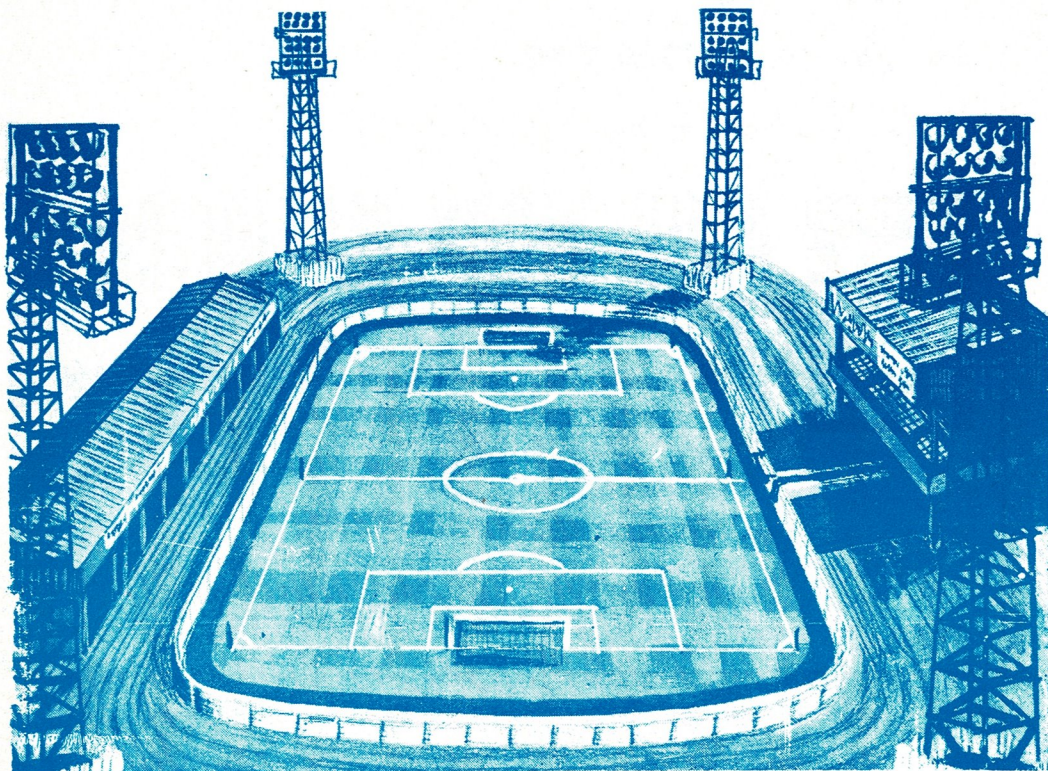


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

WIMBLEDON

SATURDAY, 13th JANUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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Manager : I. McNEILL. Secretary : D. WELSBY.

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OUR VISITORS

Like ourselves, Wimbledon our visitors today, are newcomers to the Football League. They were admitted in June 1977 in place of Workington.

Wimbledon's first season in the league gave their chairman and board quite a worrying time for the first few months, and at Christmas they were in the bottom four. It was then that the Board decided to make most of their playing staff full-time professionals—this paid off and by the season's end they were holding a very comfortable mid-league position with 44 points and have since gone from strength to strength. They now lead the 4th Division with 32 points from 22 games and must be considered warm favourites for promotion. We wish them luck.

As non-league clubs Wigan and Wimbledon met on three occasions. Once at Wigan and twice at Wimbledon. The game at Wigan was drawn and the two at Wimbledon we lost by the odd goal in each game. In our first league encounter in September

it was again an odd goal win for Wimbledon.

Wimbledon are nationally known mostly as prominent cup fighters and one can never forget their win at 1st Div. Burnley in 1975 (the first by a non-league club on a 1st Division ground for 54 years); and their draw at Leeds in the next round. They were beaten by the only goal in the replay at Crystal Palace, and this was an own goal.

Their Durnsford Road ground is not one of the largest, capacity is about 15,000. Their record gate v. Middlesbro' in 1977 was only just over 8,000, but enormous improvements have been made since they became a League club and I am sure that with such a go-ahead Board of Directors they will go from strength to strength.

Wimbledon were formed in 1889, became a limited company in 1964. They have been champions of the Southern League on three occasions and have won the S.L. Cup twice.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

WEDNESDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

WIGAN ATHLETIC v. TORQUAY UNITED

Reserved Stand Tickets issued for the game on 2nd December 1978, will NOT BE VALID for this game. Any person who purchased a ticket for this game should contact the Office

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

SATURDAY 20th JANUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 2-00 p.m.

Wigan Athletic Reserves v. Manchester City 'A'

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FROM THE MANAGERS DESK

Today we give a warm welcome to Wimbledon F.C. It is not that long since both clubs were non-League outfits, so it says a great deal for both set-ups that we are staging today's match at 4th Division level, and in fact, a match that has a bearing on promotion to the 3rd Division. The 'Dons' have been perched at the top of the league most of the season and most certainly look as if they have a favourable chance to go up. I still feel our match in London when we lost 2-1 was a little bit harsh on us as I felt we deserved at least a point. However, we have come a long way since then, and we hope we can continue with a good result today.

'LOYAL BLUE' WHO ARE YOU?

Somewhere out among you is a supporter who is obviously a good Latics fan and who is interested enough to keep writing me letters telling me where I am going wrong, and what changes I should make.

I would really like to meet this chap and have a good chat, so I am inviting him to drop in and see me, and who knows, we may have some knowledge beneficial to each other.

PLAYABLE PITCHES

Lots has been said this past couple of weeks regarding who should make the ultimate decision of whether a pitch is playable or not. All I can add is the fact that football in Gt. Britain has been going strong for a long while and referees in general have taken the responsibility in their stride. So why change?

NEW YEAR

Since this is our first home game of the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal supporters for their wonderful support this season so far, and I hope we can continue to press the leaders and be as successful in 1979 as we have in 1978. Enjoy today's match.

I. McNEILL.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

(up to and including 6th January 1979)

	Home							Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Wimbledon	22	9	1	1	23	12	4	5	2	16	14	32		
Portsmouth	23	9	1	1	21	2	5	2	5	21	20	31		
Reading	22	9	2	0	24	5	3	4	4	11	16	30		
Barnsley	21	6	2	2	22	10	5	5	1	13	6	29		
Aldershot	23	7	3	1	19	8	3	6	3	14	15	29		
Grimsby	22	7	2	2	22	10	4	2	5	13	13	26		
WIGAN ATHLETIC	22	8	0	3	18	11	3	4	4	8	10	26		
Newport	23	4	4	4	14	15	4	3	4	16	15	23		
Stockport	23	7	2	3	20	9	1	4	6	14	21	22		
Hereford	22	5	5	1	18	11	3	1	7	13	16	22		
Bradford	21	6	2	3	19	13	4	0	6	10	19	22		
Port Vale	22	3	6	2	16	14	5	0	6	17	19	22		
Scunthorpe	23	7	1	4	18	17	1	5	5	9	14	22		
Torquay	20	6	1	2	15	7	3	2	6	10	19	21		
Hartlepool	21	3	6	2	17	13	3	3	4	7	16	21		
Bournemouth	22	5	2	4	16	11	2	4	5	6	8	20		
Huddersfield	22	7	4	1	18	8	0	2	8	5	16	20		
Northampton	22	6	4	2	22	14	1	2	7	11	22	20		
York	21	4	3	3	11	11	4	1	6	9	18	20		
Darlington	22	3	5	3	13	10	3	2	6	13	20	19		
Doncaster	21	4	4	4	15	14	1	2	6	9	18	16		
Crewe	21	2	3	5	12	18	1	5	5	8	20	14		
Rochdale	22	2	3	5	7	14	1	3	8	8	22	12		
Halifax	23	1	3	6	5	14	0	2	11	10	28	7		

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

[illegible]

PEN PICTURES OF WIMBLEDON F.C.

There have been many changes in the squad since the Dons took the field in their Football League debut in August 1977. Since the arrival of DARIO GRADI there has been a move to bring much younger players into the squad, whilst still retaining a few of the older and more experienced players.

The goalkeeping department is in the hands of RAY GODDARD, an experienced 'keeper who joined the Dons from Millwall in the middle of last season. He had previously had several seasons with Orient.

The defence is made up mainly of more experienced players. One of the full-back positions is usually filled by JEFF BRYANT who is in his seventh season with the club and in that time has made 300 first team appearances. He was converted from a central defender to right-back last term. In the centre of the defence are the two DAVES - GALVIN and DONALDSON. The former is a very experienced player who joined Wolves at the age of 18 and spent 4 years at Molyneux before moving to Gillingham where he had several seasons, including that in which they gained promotion to Div. 3. Dave Donaldson "Player of the Year" last year in his first season in the Football League is 36 years of age. He joined the Dons in 1974 from amateurs Walton & Hersham and has made over 260 appearances for Wimbledon since then.

One of the younger players in the defence is 21 years old TERRY EAMES. He joined the club in 1976 from Crystal Palace where he was an apprentice. Recently the club has signed from QPR STEVE PERKINS who can play on either side of the defence. Steve was previously with Chelsea.

The midfield is composed of young players, of whom the most experienced and also the Dons most expensive player, is LES BRILEY. Les joined the Dons last season from Hereford Utd. for a £16,000 fee. Like Ray Goddard, he too played a large part in the club's improved form in the second half of the season. He had two

seasons at Hereford, which he had joined from Chelsea. He is aged 22 years and was born locally. PAUL DENNY who is 20 years old, joined Wimbledon from Southend Utd. at the beginning of last season. His early games were as a striker but he was moved back in mid-season into the midfield, from where he gave some fine performances. Also in midfield is STEVE GALLIERS, 21 years old, who too signed at the beginning of the 1977/78 season. His previous club was Chorley, and it was because of his fine performances for that club against the Dons in three FA Challenge Trophy ties that he was brought to Plough Lane.

STEVE KETTERIDGE, 19 year old midfielder player was signed from Derby Co., for a small fee. Skilful and energetic, he joined the Dons at the end of last season.

The Dons signed PAUL HAVERSON, from QPR. Paul, who is 19 year of age, is a former English Schoolboy International, and plays in either midfield or defence.

The strikers are led by ROGER CONNELL top scorer for Wimbledon in the four seasons he has been there. Joined the club in 1974 from the amateur ranks where he won several international caps. He is supported up front by ALAN CORK, a 19 year old signed from Derby in January 1978. These two players places are threatened by new signing RAY KNOWLES, age 25, who was signed from the amateur ranks.

The Dons have three wingers on their books. The most experienced is 22 years old JOHN LESLIE, who joined the club in 1975/76 season. Played over 100 games since then and scored 13 goals last term.

STEVE PARSONS, 21 years of age, who joined the club last season from amateur football. He was previously on Fulham's books, and has an explosive shot with both feet. FRAN COWLEY, age 22 years, soccer career began at Chelsea where he was an apprentice. Joined Wimbledon from Derby with Alan Cork.

NEW AND REBUILT

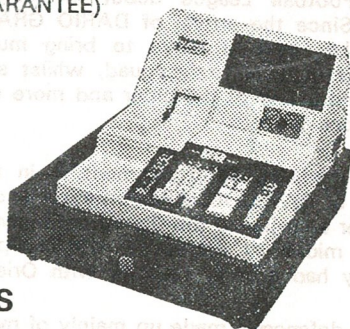
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Focus on TOMMY GORE

<i>Full Name :</i>	Thomas John Gore.
<i>Birthplace :</i>	Liverpool.
<i>Birthdate :</i>	26th November, 1953.
<i>Height :</i>	5ft. 7ins.
<i>Weight :</i>	11½ stone.
<i>Previous Clubs :</i>	Liverpool, Tranmere.
<i>Married :</i>	Yes, to Janet.
<i>Children :</i>	Yes, Michael.
<i>Car :</i>	Ford Capri.
<i>Favourite player :</i>	Graeme Souness.
<i>Favourite other team :</i>	Liverpool.
<i>Most difficult opponent :</i>	Pele.
<i>Most memorable match :</i>	New York Cosmos, June 1975.
<i>Biggest thrill :</i>	Scoring winner for L'pool, Youth Cup S-Final.
<i>Biggest disappointment :</i>	Losing in Youth Cup Final.
<i>Best country visited :</i>	America.
<i>Favourite food :</i>	Steak.
<i>Miscellaneous likes :</i>	Golf, all sports.
<i>Miscellaneous dislikes :</i>	Smoking.
<i>Favourite TV shows :</i>	Sweeney, Sports Shows.
<i>Favourite singers :</i>	Rod Stewart, Neil Diamond.
<i>Favourite actors :</i>	Clint Eastwood, Donald Sutherland.
<i>Best friend :</i>	I hope many.
<i>Biggest influence on career :</i>	None.
<i>Biggest drag in soccer :</i>	Coach journeys, being injured.
<i>International honours :</i>	None.
<i>Personal ambition :</i>	To be happy.
<i>Professional ambition :</i>	To win promotion.
<i>If not in football, what would you like to be :</i>	Joiner.
<i>Which person in the world would you most like to meet :</i>	Muhammed Ali.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



May 1, on behalf of the Board, welcome Ron Noades, chairman of Wimbledon, his fellow directors, team and officials to Springfield Park today for what appears to be the match of the season, and their first ever league game at Wigan.

At the moment we are only six points behind Wimbledon who have been setting the pace in Division 4 since last August. It is incredible that this game should be a clash of the 'giants' as two years ago we were both non-league clubs pleading for a chance to prove ourselves capable of competing in higher circles; our present league placings have, I think, proved just that.

It is also interesting to note that after our fifth game of the season at Wimbledon in September we occupied bottom place in the league with a record as follows: Pld 5, Won 0,

Drn 1, Lost 4, For 3 Agst 10, Pts. 1. We have now only lost one league game since 26th September 1978, with a record as follows: Pld 13, Won 9, Drn 3, Lost 1, For 18 Agst 7, Pts. 21.

Since New Year's Day weather conditions have been atrocious; up to the time of writing no game has been played. We were on our way to Hartlepool on 1st Jan., but the Police notified us after a 20 mile journey that the game was off. The Rochdale game last Saturday was also called off. Ground staff have been busy trying to cope with water pipe bursts and other defects caused by severe wintry conditions.

It is pleasing to report that three of our outstanding fixtures have now been arranged: Port Vale (a) will have been played (weather permitting) this week, Rochdale (a) will take place on Tues. 16th Jan. and we have Torquay (h) on Wed. 24th Jan.

When our Football League application was scrutinised by Football League officials before we were elected, one of the questions put to us was "What do you estimate your average gate would be"? After due consideration we replied 5,000, and I am pleased to report that our first 11 home league games have an average of 6,891, and our 11 away games average 6,259 which is most satisfactory and proves that our spectators are not just 'homers'.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 13th JANUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic

- 1 Mark Grew
- 2 Kevin Smart
- 3 Joe Hinnigan
- 4 Tommy Gore
- 5 Noel Ward
- 6 Dave Fretwell
- 7 Frank Corrigan
- 8 Jeff Wright
- 9 Peter Houghton
- 10 Mickey Moore
- 11 Ian Purdie
- 12 Derek Brownbill

Referee :

Mr. M. R. BAKER
(Wolverhampton)

Linesmen :

Mr. P. B. Mumby
(Elland)
Red Flag

Mr. J. M. Warner
(Wednesbury)
Yellow Flag

FOR YOUR RECORD

Result :

Attendance :

Scorers :

Wimbledon

- 1 Ray Goddard
- 2 Geoff Bryant
- 3 Terry Eames
- 4 Paul Haverson
- 5 Dave Galvin
- 6 Steve Perkins
- 7 John Leslie
- 8 Les Briley
- 9 Ray Knowles
- 10 Alan Cork
- 11 Steve Parsons
- 12 Paul Denny

TODAY'S REFEREE

M. R. BAKER (Wolverhampton)

Commenced refereeing in Wolverhampton Amateur League, then through West Midland (Regional) to Football League. Has officiated in an England v. Scotland (Amateur) International, also a Hungary v. Austria match.

A married man with two sons, he is a Director of a tool-making concern, and his hobbies are tennis, swimming and walking. Serves on a committee to raise money for the welfare of Senior Citizens.

EDITORIAL

I have heard many arguments re the size of football pitches, especially in the 4th Division of the Football League. I hope the following information will be useful.

Size of Grounds in 4th Division

WIGAN	117 yds. x 73
TORQUAY	112 yds. x 74
SCUNTHORPE	112 yds. x 78
READING	112 yds. x 77
PORTSMOUTH	116 yds. x 73
NEWPORT	110 yds. x 75
HEREFORD	111 yds. x 80
HALIFAX	110 yds. x 70
DONCASTER	118 yds. x 79
CREWE	112 yds. x 74
BOURNEMOUTH	117 yds. x 75
ALDRSHOT	117 yds. x 76
WIMBLEDON	115 yds. x 74
STOCKPORT	110 yds. x 75
ROCHDALE	113 yds. x 75
PORT VALE	116 yds. x 76
NORTHAMPTON	120 yds. x 75
HUDDERSFIELD	115 yds. x 75
HARTLEPOOL	113 yds. x 77
GRIMSBY	111 yds. x 74
DARLINGTON	110 yds. x 74
BRADFORD CITY	110 yds. x 70
BARNLEY	110 yds. x 75
YORK	115 yds. x 75

Only two clubs in the League have longer pitches than Wigan — i.e., Northampton 120 yds. and Doncaster 118 yds. On the other hand only Bradford City and Halifax are less in width at 70 yds. against 73 yds.

The four largest pitches in the Football League are :

NORTHAMPTON	120 yds. x 75
MANCHESTER C.	119 yds. x 79
DONCASTER	118 yds. x 79
CARLISLE	117 yds. x 78

The widest pitch in the Football League is :

HEREFORD 80 yds.

and the smallest overall are :

BRADFORD CITY 110 yds. x 70
HALIFAX 110 yds. x 70

The recent bad weather has again brought proposals that there should be a winter close down in the game, but Alan Hardacre, Football League general secretary does not agree, nor do I. As Mr. Hardacre says, which months are we to abandon? Last season December was better than March; then again whichever months were made idle it would necessitate playing in June and July when most spectators are thinking of holidays.

For nearly 100 years now soccer has been a winter game and both players and spectators alike have been tough enough to withstand severe wintry conditions. I don't think the weather is any worse now, nor do I think players and spectators are less tough. Let's stay as we are.

I do think that clubs will have to think seriously on the lines of the Leicester City club who have the four sides of their ground covered and also cover their pitch with a form of hot air balloon. Only fog cancels a game at Filbert Street.

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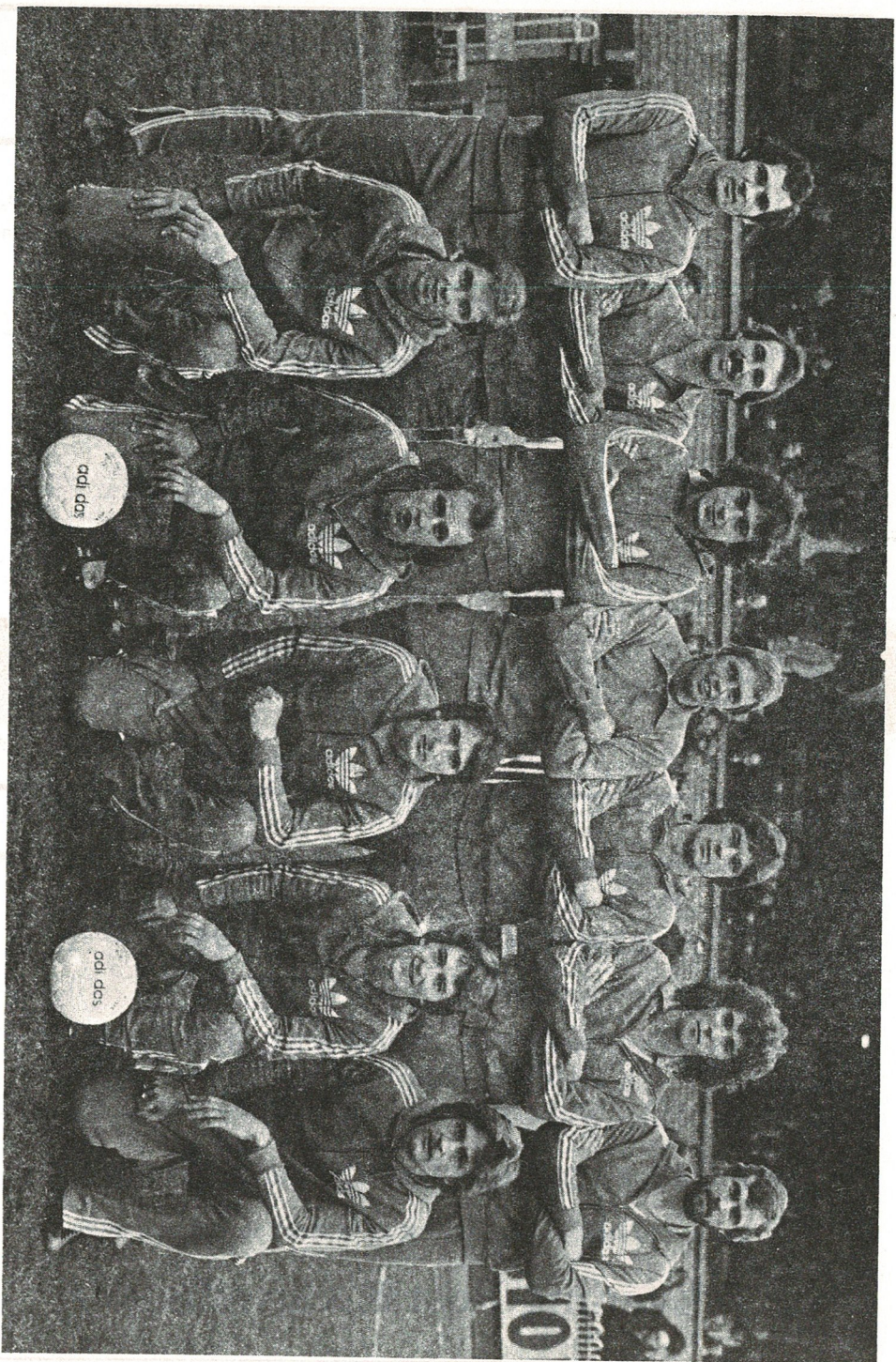
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WIMBLEDON F.C. — 1978/79

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

August— F-A

18—Blackpool 'A' H 2-1
25—Southport Res. H 1-1

September—

2—Everton 'A' A 2-1
9—Chester 'A' H 1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res. A 0-0

16—

23—Bradford City Res. H 5-0
30—Liverpool 'A' A 1-2

October—

7—Rochdale Res. H 2-2
14—Rochdale Res. A 0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res. H 2-0
27—Stockport County 'A' A 8-0

November—

11—Tranmere R. Res. H 2-2
18—Crewe Alex 'A' A 3-3
25—Manchester City 'A' A 2-1

December—

2—Blackpool 'A' H
9—Port Vale Res. H 3-1
13—Macclesfield T. Res. H 5-1
16—Chester 'A' A
26—
30—Morecambe Res. A 5-0

1979

January— F-A

1—Oldham Ath. Res. H (Mn.)
6—Morecambe Res. H
13—Port Vale Res. A
20—Manchester City 'A' H
27—Macclesfield T. Res. A

February—

3—Bradford City Res. A
10—Crewe Alex Res. H
17—Manchester Utd. 'A' A
24—Oldham Ath. Res. A

March—

3—Carlisle Res. A
10—Stockport County 'A' H
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B' A
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B' H
31—Wrexham Res. A

April—

7—Manchester Utd. 'A' H
13—Southport Res. A (Fri.)
15—Wrexham Res. H
16—
21—Liverpool 'A' H
28—

May—

5—Everton 'A' H

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